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GROWERS AND DEALERS WARNED OF BAD CHECKS

Growers and dealers frequently are the prey of truckers who pay for farm produce with worthless checks, warns H. A. Spilman, Agricultural Marketing Service specialist. It is a good business practice to investigate all checks on out-of-State banks tendered by truckers, Spilman says, even though the trucker is licensed under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

"Investigating suspicious checks is a comparatively simple matter," Mr. Spilman points out. "The honest trucker will not object when he is asked to obtain the money by telegraph. And it is to the advantage of the farmer or dealer to pay for the telegram in order to be sure of payment. If the trucker is reluctant to wire for the money, it is a good indication that he has no money in the bank."

Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, any person handling one ton or more of produce in interstate or foreign commerce is a "dealer" and is required to be licensed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Most out-of-State truckers come under this definition and are subject to the penalties prescribed by the Act. Even so, a thorough investigation of all checks, especially large ones, will save growers and dealers much trouble and expense, Spilman says.

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TOBACCO PRODUCTION INCREASES IN COUNTRIES OF THE FAR EAST

It is estimated that in recent years about 45 percent of the world tobacco production, or about 2.9 billion pounds, has been grown in the far eastern countries of China, Manchuria, the Japanese Empire, India, and the Netherlands Indies, writes J. Barnard Gibbs, tobacco specialist, in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's publication "Foreign Agriculture."

These countries are also large users of tobacco products and for the 5 years, 1934 to 1938, exports from the areas, largely of dark types, including cigar leaf, have been only about 145 million pounds annually. The countries have had a substantial deficit in flue-cured leaf, needed in the manufacture of cigarettes, which has been supplied by imports from the United States.

The production of this type for use in replacing American, however, has been increased until it now approaches the total domestic demand. If recent trends continue, flue-cured production in the Far East may soon exceed domestic demand, and American flue-cured growers may face substantial competition with oriental flue-cured in European markets. Significant quantities of Indian flue-cured are already being exported to the United Kingdom.

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BUYING OF PORK PRODUCTS FOR RELIEF REACHES HIGH TOTAL

Purchases of lard and pork products for domestic relief distribution, under the program authorized last December, reached a total of almost 99 million pounds with the buying June 1 of 10 million pounds of smoked pork. Commodities bought are used by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for distribution through the States to families on relief and for use in school lunch programs.

Additional purchases of smoked pork products will be made in the near future on offers now being received at the FSCC. Invitations for the trade to submit further offers for sale of lard, salt pork, and smoked pork were sent out by the FSCC on May 31. It is probable that additional purchases will be made when these offers are received. The current purchases are expected to improve market conditions for hog producers.

Lard and pork products are also being moved to relief families through the Department's Food Order Stamp program. Up to May 1, about \$2,500,000 worth of the blue surplus stamps distributed under this program had been used for the purchase of pork products. Since December, approximately 30 percent of all the surplus stamps have been spent by participating families for lard and pork. It is anticipated that about \$25,000,000 will be spent for pork products under the stamp plan during the fiscal year beginning July 1.

GRADE-LABELED CANNED
FOODS FOR CONSUMERS

. By Paul M. Williams

The average homemaker has the firm belief that she will receive premium quality canned foods if she pays a premium price. Advertising, selling practices, and much of the literature in the field of merchandising tend to confirm this conviction. Even though some of her experiences run contrary to this belief, she is inclined to view them as exceptions to a generally infallible rule.

In November 1939, Charles W. Hauck, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station economist, set out to test this rule. Ohio-packed corn and tomatoes were bought in 200 stores selected at random in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus. The price paid for each can and the place of purchase were recorded. Then the label was removed from the can and a code symbol attached for identification. All of the cans were submitted to the Columbus food grading laboratory of the Agricultural Marketing Service for scoring as to quality. In this way, none of the official graders had any knowledge of the brands being scored.

After the quality scores were determined, they were compared with the prices paid. It was noted that prices showed only a very slight tendency to vary with quality; that as a guide to quality, prices were wholly unreliable.

Descriptive Terms Misleading

From the layman's point of view, the labels on most cans were either misleading or failed to tell anything about the quality of the contents. Hauck, in Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 123, describes some of the labels he found.

"Of 64 tomato samples, 19 cans bore on the labels such claims for high quality as "Selected Hand Packed," "Best Buy," "Quality Supreme," "High Quality Pure Food," "Distinctively Different," and "Extra Hand Packed-Rich in Vitamins." The quality scores of these 19 samples averaged 76.8. The quality scores of the 45 samples bearing no such claims averaged 75.9, or so nearly the same as to represent no significant difference. Of 65 corn samples, 6 bore designations like "Finest Quality," "Extra Standard," and "Packed Fresh from Fields-Retains All of Nature's Vitamins." The quality scores of these 6 samples averaged 75.2. The quality scores of the 59 samples bearing no such claims averaged 75.4, again almost identically the same.

"All these terms tend to convey to the layman, by positive claim or by implication, an impression of high quality. Though certain of these designations are commonly understood in the trade to describe lower quality ("Extra Standard" is the second grade), the consumer who is unfamiliar with trade terminology is pretty certain to attach to these terms the usual dictionary definition and to interpret all of them as indications of the highest quality. It is obvious that these designations

as used on these cans of corn and tomatoes were of no value whatever to consumers in identifying the quality of the contents."

Hauck came to the conclusion that "some other more dependable means must be adopted to indicate quality to the buyer if she is to buy intelligently and avoid wasteful and uneconomic expenditures, and if a closer relationship between quality and price is to be fostered. A reliable statement of quality and other pertinent factors on every label would satisfy these requirements."

The Grade Labeling Program

This study of Hauck's, and similar surveys conducted in other parts of the United States, indicate that consumers obtain scant information from the labels as to the quality of the contents. Consumers, in general, have no means of showing how to spend their food dollar to the best advantage.

This need not be so. Since 1931, the Department of Agriculture has had in effect a grade-labeling program on canned fruits and vegetables that is especially adapted for consumer use.

For most commodities packed in family size cans only 3 grades have been developed--A, B, and C. These simple terms reflect at once the position of the labeled product on the quality scale. Each quality has its specific uses. Grade A fruit, for example, is used for dessert purposes, while Grade C vegetables are used for purposes in which color, shape, and size are not important.

As it is not possible or necessary for the Agricultural Marketing Service to inspect all of the fruits and vegetables canned in the United States at the factories, the grade terms generally do not carry the prefix "U.S." The seller is responsible for the accuracy of every statement appearing on his labels. He is subject to the penalty provided under the Food and Drugs Act if any statement is false or misleading. This means that any cans bearing the grade term A, B, or C, or "Fancy," "Extra Standard or Choice," and "Standard" must meet the requirements of the grades set up by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Under such a system, the consumer can buy with complete confidence.

The Record of One Distributor

One of the largest grocery distributors in the country handles grade-labeled canned goods. Reporting recently on the volume of such merchandise handled since 1934, this corporation stated that 928,403,000 No. 2 cans had been sold over its counters to April 30, 1940. If all of these cans were laid end to end they would reach around the earth about 2 and one-third times. The Agricultural Marketing Service makes no check on the number of distributors handling grade-labeled canned goods, but it is known that several other Nation-wide companies sell grade-labeled merchandise.

Though the trend seems to be moving in the direction of grade labeling for an ever-increasing volume of canned goods, most of the Nation's grocery stores continue to sell by brand alone. Much of this is due to consumer indifference. Our merchandising system is founded on the slogan that the "customer is always right." If enough consumers begin to realize that they have been wrong--and start to ask for grade-labeled canned goods--the stores will satisfy their demand.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Williams, senior marketing specialist for the Agricultural Marketing Service, is a well-known authority on processed foods.)

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ITALIAN-TYPE CHEESE PRODUCTION

MAY INCREASE IN NEW YORK STATE

In view of disturbed conditions abroad that may curtail Italian cheese importations for some time to come, the outlook for Italian-type cheese manufacture in New York State is especially favorable, says Dr. M. W. Yale, bacteriologist at the Geneva Experiment Station. And citing the rapid growth of the industry during the past few years, Dr. Yale points out that nearly 5 million pounds of Italian-type cheese were made in New York State in 1938--accounting for 30 percent of all the Italian-type cheese made in the United States that year. This output represents an increase of almost 100 percent during the past 5 years.

At least 10 different types of Italian cheese are being made in New York State at the present time, and other types, particularly the semi-soft Bel Paese type, could be manufactured, according to Dr. Yale. For the most part, the up-State factories make only the curd, which is then shipped to New York City and vicinity where it is made into a number of varieties. Among these are the flaky cheeses that go under the names of Provola, Provalone, Salami, Caciocavalla, Scamorze, and Mossarello, depending upon their shape and method of manufacture. Other types include the fresh and the dry Ricotta that are made from whey.

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FARM SIZE AFFECTS

TYPE OF PRODUCTION

Surveys made by the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station of farms in the outer bluegrass region of Kentucky showed that 100-acre farms paid best when emphasis was placed on tobacco, dairy products, poultry, sheep, and hogs; 150-acre farms when tobacco, dairy products, sheep, beef cattle, and hogs were emphasized; 250 to 300-acre farms when tobacco, beef cattle, sheep, dairy cattle, hogs, and lespedeza seed received the most attention. The larger farms had a smaller acreage of tobacco in proportion to tillable land than the medium and small farms, and put greater emphasis on beef cattle and sheep.

FLUID MILK PRICES RELATED TO SALES OF EVAPORATED PRODUCT

Retail milk prices may be responsible for the mounting sales of evaporated milk throughout the country, says Dr. C. W. Pierce, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Pennsylvania State College. In the American Milk Review for May, Dr. Pierce states, in part: "Nearly everyone interested in the dairy industry is aware of the rapidly increasing use of evaporated milk in the United States. In 1928 the average per capita use of evaporated milk in the United States was slightly more than ten cans annually. Each year after 1928, with the exception of 1936, the annual per capita consumption of evaporated milk increased. In 1939 the use was 16½ cans per person, an increase of more than 50 percent from the 1928 level. At present evaporated milk represents approximately one-tenth of the total use of evaporated and fresh milk in the United States

"During the 30's, when evaporated milk consumption was increasing steadily, the spread between the retail prices of fresh and evaporated milk was gradually widening. Considering average retail prices in 51 cities as compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1.4 cans of evaporated milk could be purchased for the price of one quart of fresh milk in 1928. In 1939 a quart of fresh milk cost consumers as much as 1.8 cans of evaporated milk The only logical conclusion is that an adjustment will have to be made in both the farm price and the distributor's margin if fresh milk is to compete successfully with evaporated milk...."

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NUMEROUS CHARTS FEATURE OF AMS DAIRY REPORT

"Dairy Production", new monthly report of the Agricultural Marketing Service, covers the important factors relating to the production of milk and dairy products. Included in the report are current statistics on milk production and dairy pastures, formerly carried in the monthly crop report. The publication also brings together in concise form a number of reports on manufactured dairy products, stocks on hand, and prices issued by the Service during the month.

The statistics are well-illustrated by charts, which show significant trends in the industry for the period 1934-38, for 1939, and to date for 1940. Of interest to the lay reader, a brief section is devoted to a discussion of the ways dairy statistics may be used. The report may be obtained by addressing requests to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D. C.

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More than 8 million boys and girls have received 4-H Club training since the work became Nation-wide in 1914.

WAR AND WHEAT PRICES. .

. . . By Robert E. Post

Wheat prices have been dependent to a large degree upon the world situation, and are extremely sensitive to international developments. Wheat was heavily sold on May 14 and 15 following Germany's invasion of the Low Countries. Futures prices in Chicago declined the 10-cent limit on both days. By May 18 there was a further net decline of 10 cents per bushel and the Secretary of Agriculture requested that minimum prices be established in futures markets.

On May 20, at the opening of trading, minimum futures prices had been established by the various grain exchanges in the United States as follows: At Chicago--July 78 1/2 and September 78 1/4; at Kansas City--July 74 5/8 and September 74 7/8; and at Minneapolis--July 79 5/8 and September 79 5/8. Prices have held above these minimums at Chicago and Kansas City, except for brief periods, but declined to the minimum at Minneapolis, following June 3.

The loan program for the 1940 crop, announced on May 20, provided for loans to producers of 81 cents per bushel for No. 2 Hard Winter wheat at Chicago, 2 1/2 cents higher than the July future; 77 cents for No. 2 Hard Winter wheat at Kansas City, 2 3/8 cents higher than the July future; and 87 cents for No. 1 Dark Northern Spring wheat at Minneapolis, 7 3/8 cents higher than the July future. The schedule of values in the loan program is expected to result in an average loan value to United States producers of about 64 cents per bushel. This is about 57 percent of the parity price, which on April 15 was \$1.13. The 1939 loan values averaged 63 cents.

"Loan Wheat" Increases As Prices Fall

Wheat prices usually decline at this time of the year until the heavy new-crop movement is over. During the past two years, when loans have been available, growers have increased the quantity of wheat they placed under loan as prices fell below loan values. This served to check the downward tendency, and prices later strengthened. In early September 1938, prices declined to a level of about 9 cents below loan rates; in late July 1939 they averaged about 14 cents below loan levels. Following these low levels, prices advanced in both years.

Since the invasion of the Low Countries on May 14, domestic prices have declined more than prices in Winnipeg and Buenos Aires. On June 7, domestic futures prices were about 25 cents lower than the average for the week ended May 11, while prices at Winnipeg declined only about 14 cents, and at Buenos Aires about 6 cents. Prices in Winnipeg did not rise as much in April nor decline as sharply in May as did our domestic prices. Prices in Argentina declined relatively little in May because supplies for export still remaining are unusually small. Domestic prices, however, still continue high in comparison with wheat prices in these other markets. On June 8, prices of Hard Winter wheat at Gulf ports are about 25 cents above export parity and those at Pacific ports about 29 cents above. These margins are about the same as the average for the past 12 weeks.

Domestic Prices Higher Than Last Fall

With the drop in prices that accompanied the spread of the war, wheat prices are still above the levels that existed last August before war broke out in Europe. Hard Winter wheat prices are about 17 cents higher and Hard Spring wheat prices about 9 cents higher. Contributing to this strength in prices are a prospective smaller domestic crop in 1940, and a smaller prospective production in other countries.

On the basis of May 1 conditions, the domestic crop is expected to total 675 million bushels, compared with 755 million bushels a year ago. The world acreage is expected to be no larger and possibly smaller than in 1939, growing conditions are below normal in many producing areas, and there is a shortage of farm labor and probable damage to growing crops in invaded areas of Europe. It seems likely that the 1940 world crop will be smaller than in 1939 when yields were above average. The smaller crop in the United States, however, is partly offset by a prospective carry-over July 1, 1940, of 288 million bushels--about 34 million bushels larger than a year earlier.

If yields per acre in 1940 turn out to be significantly below average, and the total acreage is no larger, world production is likely to be smaller than world consumption. In that case, the world carry-over at the end of the 1940-41 season would be smaller than the prospective July 1940 carry-over.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Post analyzes wheat prices and trends each month in the "Wheat Situation," issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.)

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"SUNSHINE FLAVOR" REDUCED BY PAPER MILK CONTAINERS

Paper milk containers tested by the University of California College of Agriculture have proved superior to the common clear glass milk bottles in protecting milk from effects of sunlight and the development of the so-called sunshine flavor.

These experiments were reported on in the current issue of Food Research by J. L. Henderson, D. C. Ford, and C. L. Roadhouse of the University's dairy industry division. Three different types of paper containers were tested, all of them providing greater protection from the effects of light rays than did the milk bottles.

In summarizing their findings the three scientists said, "Paper containers varied greatly among themselves in their ability to protect the milk from the development of 'sunshine flavor.' The container made of thick paper with unbleached or colored inner plies gave complete protection against the flavor defect and nearly complete protection against ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) destruction. The effect of sunlight on ascorbic acid destruction was useful as an index of the effect of sunlight on milk flavor.

PRE-HARVEST WHEAT SURVEY
BEGAN JUNE 1 IN OKLAHOMA

The 1940 pre-harvest wheat survey got under way the first week of June in southwestern Oklahoma. Confined this year to the wheat crop in Oklahoma and Kansas, the survey will provide timely information on the test weight, protein content, and other characteristics of the crop at harvest time. The work, handled by crop specialists of the Federal Agricultural Marketing Service and cooperating State agricultural colleges, will be concluded about July 1.

The methods used are the same as those employed on the wheat survey last year. Three crews of technical workers travel through the wheat sections of Oklahoma and Kansas, moving northward just ahead of the harvest season. Representative head samples of wheat are obtained from carefully measured areas selected at random. The samples are properly labeled and sent to a central laboratory at the Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, to be tested and analyzed.

"Spot" releases will be issued by the grain market news office of the Agricultural Marketing Service at Kansas City and by the crop reporting offices at Oklahoma City and Topeka, as soon as sufficient information has been obtained to indicate, by groups of counties, the test weight, protein content, and character of the crop, as compared with the same data for 1939. It is planned to issue about 4 spot reports for Oklahoma and 8 for Kansas. Shortly after the results are summarized for each State, a complete report will be issued showing test weight, protein content, and variety, by crop reporting districts. Bar charts and maps will make the State reports more usable to farmers and to the grain trade.

Farmers are generally paid for their wheat on the basis of test weight. But protein content, one of the important factors determining milling quality and price, is also significant. The reports on test weight and protein content by areas enable millers to obtain the quality they need, and thereby help growers to realize a price commensurate with the quality produced. It is also believed that the objective methods of determining yields per acre will lead to greater accuracy in the production estimates.

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NEW YORK STATE DAIRY
FIGURES NOW AVAILABLE

Preliminary 1939 figures covering the operations of Grade "A" milk plants, dairy products manufactured, fluid milk and cream sales, and other phases of New York State's huge dairy industry have been issued recently by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Additional data will be available sometime later. These statistical reports, comparable with those of earlier years, are a co-operative project of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

AMS SUMMARIES REVIEW

1939-40 MARKETING SEASON

The following summaries, describing in some detail the marketing of various crops in 1939 and 1940, may be obtained upon request to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D. C.

Tobacco Market Review, 1939-40 Season. Types 35, 36, and 37--Dark Air-Cured

Maine Potatoes, 1939-40 Season

Marketing Western and Central New York Apples, Summary of the 1939-40 Season...By H.H.Duncan and A.L.Thomas

Marketing Western and Central New York Carrots, Summary of the 1939-40 Season...By H.H.Duncan and A.L.Thomas

Marketing Western and Central New York Onions, Summary of the 1939-40 Season...By H.H.Duncan and A.L.Thomas

Marketing Western New York Celery, Summary of the 1939 Season. ...By J.C.Keller and A.L.Thomas

Marketing Western and Central New York Cabbage, 1939-40

North Carolina Strawberries, 1940

Marketing Texas Cabbage, 1939-40 Season

Marketing Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas Potatoes, 1940

Marketing Northwest Cherries, 1939...By L.S. Fenn and L.B.Gerry

Interstate Shipments of California Deciduous Tree Fruits, 1939 ...By W.F.Cox, R.M.Bayer, and T.J.Fitzgerald

Marketing Kern County Early Long White Potatoes, 1939...By W. H. Otto

Marketing Salinas-Watsonville Lettuce, 1939...By L.T.Kirby

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A cotton research congress to be sponsored by the State-wide Cotton Committee of Texas has been scheduled in Waco for June 27, 28, and 29. Representatives of all branches of the cotton industry will be present for a program that will include discussions of the world cotton situation, production and consumption of foreign-grown cotton, the United States' cotton policy, and the future of the Texas cotton industry.

COTTON "BALE CUTS"
AND THEIR CAUSE

. By John W. Wright

Cotton spinners have complained for many years about so-called "air cuts" that appear in a rather substantial portion of compressed cotton bales. The reason for these "air cuts" or, more accurately, "bale cuts" has been something of a mystery. There are many theories to explain their existence, the most general one being a rush of air from the inside of the bale during compression.

Investigations of the Agricultural Marketing Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, have proved that these cuts result from shearing or breaking of cotton fibers in the bale during compression and that they have no relationship to the movement of air within the bale. Detailed information has been compiled from the observation of about 25,000 cotton bales compressed at 16 compresses located in various parts of the Cotton Belt. A substantial portion of these bales were also traced to their originating gins and the gin equipment was observed.

About 35 Percent of Bales Cut

About 35 percent of the bales included in this study were "cut" during compression. Spinning tests on the cotton surrounding bale cuts showed a perceptible but minor increase in waste. These tests also showed that the adverse effect of bale cuts on manufacturing behavior and yarn appearance was slight. But the effect of bale cuts upon bale appearance and the protection afforded by bale covering, and the objections of spinners to such bales, justify an effort to find a means for their elimination.

Analysis of information obtained in the course of these studies showed that bale cutting results from a number of factors. Chief among these are: heavy bale weights; uneven packing at the gin; low moisture content of the cotton; character of the cotton; and compress equipment and operation.

Responsibility for the bale cutting is divided between farmers, ginners, and compressmen. Modification of farmers' and ginners' practices with respect to bale sizes and condition of cotton when ginned is needed. Ginners may also help by producing bales that are more uniform in density and weight. A considerable portion of such cuts would be eliminated if bale weights were standardized at about 500 pounds. Bale weights vary from 300 to more than 700 pounds. Apparently, however, before all cutting is eliminated compressmen may have to make some modification in the operation and design of press equipment.

(Editor's note: Dr. Wright is in charge of cotton marketing studies, methods, and practices for the Agricultural Marketing Service.)

ELECTRIC EYE LOOKS AT PROTEIN IN WHEAT FLOUR

A simple method of determining the protein content of wheat flour by means of an electric eye has been developed in the grain research laboratories of the Agricultural Marketing Service. The method, entirely different from those now in use, consists of the extraction of protein from the flour and its precipitation in the form of a stable colloidal suspension. The optical density of this suspension is a test of the gluten protein content of the flour and is measured automatically by means of the electric eye (photoelectric cell). The results are in good agreement with those obtained by conventional methods, and for routine work, the procedure saves time, space, chemicals, and costly equipment.

Efforts are now being made to adapt the method to the determination of protein in wheat in order that a practical procedure for use in grain inspection work may be available. Protein content is one of the important quality factors affecting the commercial value of both wheat and wheat flour. The present methods for making protein tests in considerable volume require a laboratory with elaborate and expensive equipment that must be permanently installed. The development of a simplified procedure, by which protein tests of wheat may be made conveniently in small laboratories without the installation of cumbersome equipment, would be a distinct improvement over present methods.

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1940 DIRECTORY OF MARKET NEWS BROADCASTS RELEASED BY AMS

A new directory, to provide a guide for farmers, agricultural workers, and others as to where, when, and what market news information is available by radio, has been recently issued by the Agricultural Marketing Service. To obtain the information carried in the "1940 Directory of Market News Broadcasts", questionnaires were sent to 785 radio stations. Returns were received from 654. Of this number 387 reported that they were presenting broadcasts of local or regional agricultural market news. Some stations not now broadcasting market reports expressed their desire to carry such information.

The Directory lists by States and cities, in alphabetical order, the stations broadcasting market news reports. Included under each station are the frequency, power (by day and night), the owner, and the hour market news on various farm products is broadcast. Copies of the Directory may be obtained by addressing requests to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D. C.

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More than 1,000 Negroes in the South have become land owners under the Bankhead-Jones Act.

PUBLIC HEARING UNDER FEDERAL
SEED ACT SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1

A proposal that the importation of mixtures of white and suckling clover seed be approved under the Federal Seed Act will be given a public hearing July 1, 1940, at 10 A.M., in Room 2905, South Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. In making the announcement, Secretary Wallace has named Edward J. Murphy of the Agricultural Marketing Service as the presiding officer to act for the Secretary.

Under the Federal Seed Act the importation of adulterated agricultural or vegetable seeds is prohibited. Adulterated seeds are defined as those that contain more than 5 percent by weight of seed or seeds of another kind or kinds similar in appearance. As a result of these regulations suckling clover containing over 5 percent of white clover, or white clover containing over 5 percent of suckling clover may not be imported. Should the proposed order be finally approved the importation of mixtures of these seeds would be allowed.

All persons are invited to attend this hearing and offer, either orally or in writing, comments or suggestions with respect to the proposed order. Any relevant comment that cannot be made or presented in person at the hearing may be transmitted by mail, addressed to the Chief of the Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and will be considered if received on or before July 1, 1940.

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PROSPECTIVE 1940 FRUIT
SUPPLIES ABOUT AVERAGE

Early prospects indicate that supplies of most fruits in 1940 will be smaller than the relatively large supplies in 1939 but about equal to the average of recent year. Moreover, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that domestic consumer demand for fruits is likewise to be somewhat improved over that of the 1939-40 season. These two favorable factors, the Bureau states, probably will offset to a large extent the unfavorable influence of the loss of export markets.

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First applications for free cotton classing and market news services to be approved for North Texas this season were those submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Service by the Plano Cooperative Gin One-variety Cotton Improvement Association and the Plano Mebane One-variety Cotton Improvement Association, both located at Plano, Tex. About 70 applications had been received by the Agricultural Marketing Service through June 3.

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Substantial reductions in railroad freight rates on cotton from the Southwest to Gulf ports and to mills in the South have been announced by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

SAW-GINNING SEA ISLAND COTTON REDUCES QUALITY

Sea Island cotton, with its extra-long silken fibers, brings a much higher price per bale than even the best upland growths. But the high value of Sea Island cotton can be materially reduced by using improper ginning methods. Comparative tests at the Stoneville, Mississippi, cotton ginning laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture definitely show that the desirable qualities of this long fine staple cannot be preserved in the modern saw-ginning process.

The revolving saws, no matter what speed is employed or how much they are adjusted, reduce the staple length a sixteenth of an inch on the average, and adversely affect fiber length uniformity. And saw gins also badly "nep" the fibers; that is, they produce small tangles about the size of a pinhead. These tangles are objectionable in the manufacture of most classes of goods. They are difficult to remove in the cotton mill and produce yarns, threads, and fabrics of poor appearance, especially if the material is dyed.

On the other hand, Sea Island cotton that has been carefully roller ginned and handled is comparatively free from neps. For this reason, roller gins are used exclusively in Georgia and Florida for ginning the annual crops of 2,000 to 4,000 bales of Sea Island cotton.

But in some areas of the South attempts have been made to gin this variety on saw gins. Though the saw gins did the work much faster than the roller gins, growers were forced to sell their lint with heavy price penalties because of the reduced quality.

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1937 SEALED CORN MAY BE DELIVERED TO REPAY LOANS

The Commodity Credit Corporation has recently announced that farmers having 1937 corn under loan may deliver it immediately in repayment of their loans. A substantial quantity of the corn delivered will probably be shipped to foreign countries under the recently announced export program, officials have stated.

In resealing their 1937 corn last fall, farmers had agreed to hold it until October 1, 1940. This opportunity for immediate delivery should tend to increase storage and shipping facilities at the time of the 1940 small grain harvest.

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"All risk" crop insurance on the 1940 wheat crop has been taken out by 378,000 wheat growers in the Nation, according to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. In this way they have guaranteed to themselves 106 million bushels.

NEW STANDARDS FOR U. S.
POTATO GRADES ANNOUNCED

Revised U. S. standards for potatoes, effective May 15, 1940, provide slightly more liberal application of tolerances for defects in occasional packages provided the average for any lot does not exceed present tolerances, the Agricultural Marketing Service announced recently. There is no change in the grade or size requirements or tolerances for size and defects. In explaining the revised standards, officials of the Service state that the changes are intended to lessen technical disputes between buyers and sellers when decay and other defects occur within a small proportion of the packages in any lot.

Inspectors also have been instructed to quote percentages, instead of using general terms, in certifying the proportion of samples showing various amounts of soft rot and spotted containers. Inspectors who in the past have certified potatoes in terms such as "Most samples show 1 to 2 percent soft rot, many show more, a few 5 to 15 percent" will now be required to show such a condition as "Thirty percent of samples show no soft rot, 60 percent show 1 to 2 percent, and 10 percent show 5 to 15 percent." The slightly more liberal application of defect tolerances to individual packages and the more detailed information now required in inspection certificates are expected to make the grades more usable for buyers and sellers.

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RED CROSS TO PURCHASE SURPLUS
FOOD PRODUCTS AT HALF PRICE

A plan under which the American Red Cross will be able to buy from the Department of Agriculture a large quantity of foodstuffs at half price for shipment to war refugees in France was announced recently by the two agencies. The announcement was made as the relief agency reported that contributions to June 2 in its \$20,000,000 war relief fund have reached a total of \$5,410,983.

The arrangement, which Secretary Wallace said would be continued as long as funds are available, will permit exportation on the first Red Cross "mercy ship" due to sail soon, of 5,881,000 pounds of wheat flour, 1,250,000 pounds of corn meal, 750,000 pounds of lard, 800,000 pounds of prunes, and the same quantity of raisins.

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One of the most extensive campaigns ever undertaken to increase the consumption of meat and meat products will get under way this summer, according to word from the Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago. A Nation-wide advertising and merchandising program will feature the healthful qualities of all kinds of meat and meat products, and their place on a balanced diet.

--PERTAINING TO MARKETING--

The following publications, issued during May, may be obtained upon request to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D. C.

Production of Manufactured Dairy Products, 1938, and Miscellaneous Dairy Statistics, 1939

Spinning and Fiber Properties of Six American Upland Cottons Grown at Stoneville, Miss., Crop of 1939...By Malcolm E. Campbell and Roland L. Lee, Jr.

Livestock, Meats, and Wool Market Statistics and Related Data, 1939

Farm Production and Income, Chickens and Eggs, 1938-1939

Market Classes and Grades of Dressed Veal and Calf Carcasses--Circular No. 103 (Revised)...By W.C. Davis and C. M. Harriss

Dairy and Poultry Market Statistics--1939 Annual Summary

Approximate Physical Composition of the Primary Cuts from Steer Carcasses of Different Market Grades...By O.G. Hankins, BAI., and M.T. Foster, AMS.

Standards for Appearance of Cotton Yarn...By Malcolm E. Campbell

U. S. Standards for Potatoes, S.R.A.-AMS 151 (Revised)

U. S. Standards for Grades of Canned Red Sour Pitted Cherries

How Federal Grades for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables are Being Adapted to Consumers' Needs (Address)... By R.R. Pailthorp

Carlot Shipments of Fruits and Vegetables, 1939

Farm Production and Income from Meat Animals, 1938-1939

Turkeys, Farm Production and Income, 1938-1939

Farm Production, Farm Disposition, and Value of Principal Field Crops, 1937-1939, by States

Local Market price Movements in South Dakota, 1909-1939

Monthly Egg Production, 1925-1939

Printed Publications of the Agricultural Marketing Service (List)

Information on Hay Quality for Dairy Herd Improvement Association Testers...By E.O. Pollock and W.H. Hosterman

Market Summaries (See page 10)